

## Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06

H-03 /037 W

-----053736 161619Z /45

R 161121Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8347

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (SIKES, ROBERT L.F.), OREP (DERWINSKI, EDWARD J.)

SUBJ: CODELS: DERWINSKI AND SIKES MEETING WITH PEOPLES ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER SAYED MAR'I

SUMMARY. IN MEETING WITH CODEL S DERWINSKI AND SIKES, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAR'I ECHOED PRESIDENT SADAT IN EMPHASIZING TIME FACTOR IN RESOLVING MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN ISSUES. ME PEACE PROCEEDS DISCUSSED, WITH CONGRESSMEN OBSERVING MOOD IN U.S. SHIFTING AND U.S. PUBLIC OPINION CLEARLY SUPPORTING DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT. MAR'I CLAIMED PLO BEHAVING RESPONSIBLY. QADHAFI MACHINATIONS DEPLORED; THEY VIEWED AS OPENING WAY FOR SOVIET PENETRATION. EGYPT TO INVITE MORE CONGRESSIONAL VISITS. END SUMMARY

1. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AUGUST 14 (SEPTTEL)

CODEL DERWINSKI AND SIKES, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR,

MET WITH PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SAYED MAR'I.

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2. THE SPEAKER UNDERLINED THE IMPORANTC EOF CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO EGYPT, SAYING THAT MEMBERS SHOULD STAY IN THE COUNTRY LONGER IN ORDER TO SEE AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH ORDINARY CITIZENS AND NOT JUST POLITICIANS. MAR'I SAID HE WILL SEND A GENERAL INVITATION TO U.S. CONGRESSMEN THROUGH THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

CONGRESSMAN DERSINSKI WARNED AGAINST OVER-FORMALIZING RELATIONSHIP, SAID IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO SEND LETTERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN SUGGESTING CONGRESSMEN CONSIDER VISIT EGYPT WHEN IN AREA.

3. MAR'I ASKED THE CONGRESSMEN FOR THEIR ANALYSIS OF CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S RECENT STATEMENTS.

4. CONGRESSMAN SIKES REPLIED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, CONGRESS WOULD SHOW SOME DISAPPOINTMENT, SINCE MEMBERS KNOW THAT THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE SITUATION MUST BE SETTLED BEFORE THERE WILL BE PEACE. HE HOPED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD INSIST THAT BEGIN ADOPT A MORE RATIONAL APPROACH. THE ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID, CLEARLY RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF REACHING A MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION. CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI THOUGHT THAT IT IS BECOMING CLEAR TO CONGRESS THAT ISRAEL IS THE PARTY DRAGGING ITS FEET IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

5 IN RESPONSE TO MR. MAR'T'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER BEGIN'S VISIT TO WASHINTON SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED U.S. PUBLIC OPINION, CONGRESSMAN SIKES SAID THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO GET AN ACCURATE READING. THIS WILL BECOME CLEARER AFTER THE RECESS. HOWEVER, CONGRESSMAN SIKES SAID HE IS HEARING FROM CONSITUTENTS WHO WANT THE U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO GET ON WITH THE PEACE PROCESS. PRIOR TO RECENT BEGIN STATEMENTS IT APPEARED THAT SOLUTION WAS COMING WITHIN REACH. THIS IS LESS CERTAIN NOW. IF THE PLO SHOWS A CONCILIAITIRY ATTITUDE TOWARD S RECOGNITION OF ISEAE, AS A STTEE. CONGESSMAN SIKES THOUGHT THIS WOULD AFFECT THE U.S. PPROACH TO OTHE OVERALL M.E. ISSUE. EE URGED THE PLO TO DEMONSTRATE POLITICAL ACUMEN IN RESPONDING TO THE SECRETARY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242. ADDITIONALLY CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI SAID THAT IT SIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT THE PLO REFRAIN FROM VIOLENCE.

6. SPEAKER MAR'I CLAIMED THE PLO PRESENTLY IS BEHAVING IN A PLITICAL RESPONSIBLE FASION. PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATE ON A PALESTINIAN HOME AND BROUGHT THE PGO LEADERSHIP "T THE POI NT OF DIPLOMACY". THIS HE FOUND ENCOURAGEING. EARLIER, OUTSIDESR CONTINUALLY ASKED THE PALESTNIANS TO DO SOMETHING WITHOUT OFFERING ANYTHING IN RETURN. MAR'I POINTED OUT THAT ISREAL HAS CONSTRUCTED 52 SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES . IF ISRAEL DOING THIS SOLELY AS A BARGAINING CIP , THIS WILL NOT BE TERRIBLY IMPORTANT. HOWEVER, IF THE INTENTION IS TO TURN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES INTO PARTY OF THE SATE OF ISRAEL

THEN " IT IS SOMETHING ELSE". THE SPEAKER THOUGHT CRITICAL POINT BEING RAPIDLY APPROACHED, THIS TRUE NOT ONLY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST BUT FOR AFRICA AS WELL. EGYPT, HE CONCLUDED, HAS A SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN AFRICA AND HE HOPED OBTAIN U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF THIS.

7. CONGRESSMAN SIKES SAID EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA AND MEDITERRANEAN AREA VERY IMPORTANT. THE UNITED STATES IS JUST BEGINNING TO REALIZE THE IMPORT OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THIS REGION. EARLIER, THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN DISTRACTED BY WATERGATE AND VICTNAM. NOW, THE UNITED STATES' ATTENTION IS BEING FOCUSED ON FACT THAT TIDE HAS BEEN TURNING IN FAVOR OF SOVIET UNION. EGYPT HAS BROUGHT THIS TO AMERICAN ATTENTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE OBTAIN MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION TO ENABLE BOTH OF US TO ADDRESS NEW SOVIET CHALLENGE.

8. MAR'AGREED. HE NOTED THAT SOVIET UNION FORMERLY HAD IMPORTANT CENTER IN EGYPT. AT THAT TIME, THE UNITED STATES HAD "RIGHTLY" CONCLUDED THAT ISRAEL WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE REGION WHICH COULD BE DEPENDENT UPON. THIS CHANGED WITH EGYPTIAN EXPULSION OF SOVIETS. IN 1973 WAR, RUSSIA HAD NO ROLE. IN RECOGNITION OF THIS, SOVIET UNION ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SYRIA AND IRAQ. THIS EFFORT FAILED. BECAUSE OF THIS, SOVIETS TURNED TO LIBYA. EGYPT'S CLASH WITH LIBYA IS SIGNIFICANT NOT JUST BECAUSE IT INVOLVES OPPOSING ARMIES AND IDEOLOGIES BUT BECAUSE IT IS INTRA- ARAB DISPUTE. (IMPLICATION IS LATTER STATEMENT APPEARED TO BE THAT MAR'AGREED THAT CLASH SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT DEMONSTRATED EGYPT WOULD STAND UP FOR ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS EVEN IF THIS MEANT FIGHTING OTHER ARAB STATES.)

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9. TURNING TO ANGOLA, SPEAKER SAID THIS WAS BUT ONE  
EXAMPLE OF SITUATION IN WHICH U.S. HAD COME IN VERY LATE.  
ACCORDING SPEAKER, DELAY IN SOLVING PROBLEMS IS ITSELF,  
DANGEROUS. HE NOTED THAT IT VERY DIFFICULT TO GET  
EGYPTIAN PUBLIC OPINION TO FOCUS ON EVENTS IN AFRICA  
BECAUSE OF PREDOMINANCE OF CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL,  
AND SAID IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE DIFFICULT "UNLESS UNITED  
STATES HELPS SOLVE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM". THIS, HE SAID,  
IS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LEAVE " BACK  
DOOR OPEN TO LIBYA OR USSR. " MAR'I CLAIMED IT IMPORTANT  
TO REMEMBER THAT SOVIET UNION OPPOSES PRESIDENT SADAT  
AND PRIMARY SOVIET GOAL IS TO OVERTHROW HIS REGIME.  
CONCLUDED SADAT'S ABILITY TO WITHSTAND THIS CLEARLY  
RELATED TO DEGREE OF SUCCESS IN SOLVING THE ISRAELI PROBLEM.

10. CONGRESSMAN SIKES SAID CHAD HAS HAD VERY SAD  
EXPERIENCE WITH LIBYA. LIBYA HAS ARMED INSURGENTS WHO  
HAVE SEIZED LARGE PORTIONS OF COUNTRY. CHADIAN LEADERS  
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RECOGNIZE THEIR INABILITY TO COPE WITH SITUATION. THEY  
KNOW THAT QADHAFI IS TO BLAME AND HAVE REQUESTED UNITED  
STATES' ASSISTANCE. CONGRESSMAN SIKES NOTED THAT CHADIAN  
LEADERS GREATLY APPRECIATE EGYPT'S SUPPORT. HE SAID  
BOTH UNITED STATES AND EGYPT MUST HELP THEIR FRIENDS.  
USSR, CONGRESSMAN SIKES OBSERVED, IN PROCESS OF BUILDING  
UP WORLD'S BIGGEST EMPIRE IN AFRICA. HE THOUGHT IT  
ESSENTIAL WE MOVE NOW AND HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT  
PRESIDENT CARTER WILL TAKE NECESSARY STEPS. CONGRESSMAN  
SIKES SAID HE IS HOPEFUL THAT MORE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
WILL COME TO AFRICA AND LEARN WHAT IS HAPPENING, PAR-  
TICULARLY VIS-A-VIS SOVIET UNION.

11. MAR'I OBSERVED THAT RUSSIANS ARE DISLIKED WHEREVER  
THEY ARE. THIS, HE SAID , INCLUDES LIBYA. LIBYAN INTEL-

LECTURAS AND MILITARY OFFICER ARE NOT HAPPY ABOUT  
RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIET UNION. PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST AND AFRICA PREFER TO DEAL WITH THE U.S. RATHER THAN  
RUSSIA. MART SAID HE HAS VISITED MOSCOW ON SEVERAL  
OCCASIONS AND FIND RUSSIAN " VERY HUMAN AT HOME".  
ABROAD, APPARENTLY, IS DIFFERENT MATTER.

12. CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI CONCLUDED THE CONVENTION BY  
EMPHASIZING THAT THE KEY WORD IN U.S. /EGYPTIAN RELATIONS  
IS CONFIDENCE. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE EXPAND  
CONTRACTS, BOTH IN ACADEMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS.  
AS THE PROCESS DEVELOPS, SO WILL RELATIONS BETWEEN UNITED  
STATES AND EGYPT. MART AGREED, POINTING OUT THAT EVEN  
DURING THE PERIOD WHEN SOVIET UNION DEEPLY ENTRENCHED IN  
EGYPT, MOST EGYPTIANS WANTED TO GO TO UNITED STATES,  
RATHER THAN MOSCOW, FOR POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION. HE  
AGAIN EMPHASIZED TIME FACTOR AND SAID SOLUTION TO THE  
MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN PROBLEMS WILL BE DETERMINED BY WHAT  
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HAPPENS DURING COMING YEAR.

13. ABOVE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH CONGRESSMEN. THEY  
WILL WISH TO REVIEW ON RETURN TO WASHINGTON.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** OREP, EG, XF, (DERWINSKI, EDWARD J), (SIKES, ROBERT L F), (MAR'I, SAYED),  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009